

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MANAGU 02374 241843Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 EB-08 HA-05 /038 W
-----103624 241914Z /46

P 241615Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO USINFO WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

UNCLAS MANAGUA 2374

USICA

FOR: PGM/P, VOA/PL, AR

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO RENEWED US ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA

1. WASHINGTON POST STORY OF MAY 15 PICKED-UP AND QUOTED BY INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES PLAYED ON FRONT PAGES OF NICARAGUAN NEWSPAPERS ON 17TH. SOMOZA FAMILY OWNED NOVEDADES HEADLINED "U.S. FREES AID TO NICARAGUA". OPPOSITION DAILY LA PRENSA HEADLINES WERE "BLACKMAIL AND DUALITY WITH UNITED STATES LOAN" QUOTING POST STORY. LEON PROVINCIAL DAILY EL CENTROAMERICANO FRONT PAGE STORY QUOTED A VOICE OF AMERICA BROADCAST "NO MILITARY AID OF 12 MILLION TO NICARAGUA".

2. ADDITIONAL STORIES, EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARY FOLLOWED THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. MAY 18TH LA PRENSA EDIORIAL POINTED OUT WITH A PRELIMINARY SERIES OF "EVENTHOUGHS" THAT THEY WERE FAMILIAR WITH THE RATIONALE FOR RE-LEASING THE FUNDS BUT STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE U.S. SAYING THAT AS IN PAST INSTANCES THE LOANS IN THE HANDS OF THE DICTATORSHIP WOULD BENEFIT ONLY THOSE IN POWER. "EVENTHOUGH" THE LOAN IS MINIMAL COMPARED
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TO THE FLOOD OF DOLLARS TO THE DICTATOR BEFORE THE ADVENT OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION..."EVENTHOUGH" THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE SAYS THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY A CHANGE IN THE CONDITIONS OF AID TO NICARAGUA"... "EVENTHOUGH" IT IS EMPHASIZED THAT MILITARY ASSISANCE IS FROZEN, AND DESPITE THE REALIZATION THAT THE PEOPLE ARE MALMOURISHED AND WITHOUT ACCESS TO EDUCATION

AND NEED INTERNATIONAL AID TO MITIGATE THEIR CONDITION, IN THE STRICTIST MEANING AND GIVEN THE POLITICAL FRAME OF THE DICTATORSHIP, WHATEVER LOAN, AID OR SALE OF WAR MATERIAL IS AN INTERVENTION AGAINST THE BATTLE THE NICARAGUAN PEOPLE HAVE UNDERTAKEN AND (THE LOAN) FAVORS TIRANY.

LA3. LA PRENSA ON SAME DAY RAN FRONT PAGE STORY REPORTING COMMENT OF DR. CORDOVA RIVAS, PRESIDENT OF THE UNION FOR DEMOCRATIC LIBERATION (UDEL) THAT BECAUSE NOW SOMOZA FEELS HE IS BACKED-UP BY THE U.S. HAD ORDERED THE NATIONAL GUARD TO TAKE "BRUTAL REPRISALS" AGAINST STRIKING STUDENTS; THAT THE PEOPLE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND THE AMERICAN EMBASSY ARE THE DIRECTORS RESPONSIBLE FOR WHATEVER STUDENT MASSACRE MAY OCCUR SINCE THE NEW CREDITS "DRUGGED THE HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY".

4. NOVEDADES EDITORIAL OF 19TH WAS ENTITLED "THE U.S. DOES JUSTICE TO THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA".
ITEM. FITZGERALD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, HUMAN RIGHTS, POLICIES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANAGU02374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780219-0641
Format: TEL
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780524/aaaaauec.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a05cc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2588993
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION TO RENEWED US ASSISTANCE TO NICARAGUA
TAGS: SOPN, EAID, SHUM, US, NU
To: ICA STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a05cc397-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014